AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A microscopic observing apparatus comprising:

a probe microscope;

an auxiliary microscope;

a specimen stage on which is placed a subject of observation that is to be observed using the probe microscope and the auxiliary microscope, and that allows an absolute position of the subject of observation to be adjusted;

a laser light irradiation device that irradiates laser light that is coaxial with the optical axis of the probe microscope onto the subject of observation; and

a microscope holding member that holds both of the probe microscope and the auxiliary microscope on the specimen stage,

wherein ~~the auxiliary microscope is located such that a marker formed by the laser light on the subject of observation for positioning the probe microscope is visible~~ the microscope holding member includes:

an arm that extends horizontally towards an above of the specimen stage, and holds the probe microscope; and

a rotatable member that is rotatably attached to a distal end of the arm so as to be rotatable around a horizontal axis, and holds the auxiliary microscope.

12. (Previously Presented) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the auxiliary microscope is a video microscope including a CCD camera with a macro lens.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein

the microscope holding member comprises:

a Z stage that stands upright on the specimen stage; and

a θ stage that is mounted on a top end of the Z stage [[;]]

~~an arm that extends horizontally towards an above of the specimen stage, and that holds both of the probe microscope and the auxiliary microscope~~.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The microscopic observing apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein

the probe microscope is held such that a distal end thereof appears at a substantially central position in a visual field of the auxiliary microscope.